

# Aquaculture Review Council Meeting – June 25, 2008

## Notice of Meeting

The **Aquaculture Review Council** announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Tropical Aquaculture Lab, 1408 24th Street, S. E., Ruskin, FL 33570, (813)671-5231

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To discuss issues affecting the growth of aquaculture in Florida.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Kim Norgren, 1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, Fifth Floor, Tallahassee, FL 32301, (850)488-4033.

## Meeting Agenda

### **FLORIDA AQUACULTURE REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory  
1408 24<sup>th</sup> Street Southeast,  
Ruskin, Florida**

**June 25, 2008  
10:00 a.m.**

### **AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MINUTES OF MEETING April 7, 2008
- III. OLD BUSINESS
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Full Proposals for Aquaculture Projects (2009-2010)
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VI. NEXT MEETING
- VII. ADJOURN

Meeting Minutes

**Draft Minutes**  
**Florida Aquaculture Review Council Meeting**  
**Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory**  
**1408 24<sup>th</sup> Street Southeast,**  
**Ruskin, Florida**  
**June 25, 2008**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by ARC Vice-Chair, Brad McLane at 10:10 am.

**Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) members present were:**

Gene Evans	Food Fish
Jim Michaels	At-Large
Brad McLane, Vice-Chair	Aquatic Plants
Allen Registe	Alligators
Art Rawlins	Tropical Fish
Marty Tanner	Agriculture Advisory Council
Sherman Wilhelm	Chair, Aquaculture Interagency
Coordinating	
	Council (AICC)
Dan Solano	Shellfish

**Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) member absent was:**

Heath Davis	Commercial Fishing
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**Guests present:**

Kevan Main	Mote Marine Laboratory
Megan Davis	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
Amber Shawl	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
Cortney Ohs	University of Florida
David Boozer	Executive Director of the Florida
	Aquaculture Association
Kim Norgren	Florida Department of Agriculture and
	Consumer Services (FDACS)
Ryan Gandy	Bay Shellfish Co.
Curt Hemmel	Bay Shellfish Co.
Phyllis McCrane	Florida Department of Agriculture and
	Consumer Services (FDACS)

**II. Minutes**

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the ARC meeting of April 17, 2008 as written.

### III. Old Business

#### A. 2008 Legislative Update

In June, the State of Florida's 2008-2009 fiscal budget was signed by Governor Charlie Christ and included funding for eleven Aquaculture Review Council projects. They are as follows:

*Aquaculture Career Choices in Middle School*

DACS-Division of Aquaculture \$26,960

*Aquaculture Education for Florida Teachers*

University of Florida and Hillsborough Community College \$312,493

*Aquaculture Small Learning Community (Development and Implementation)*

River View High School – Aquaculture SLC \$49,950

*Aquaculture Marketing and Education* DACS- Bureau of Seafood and  
Aquaculture Marketing \$54,915

*Aquaculture Immersion Excursion: A Teacher Workshop Series for Integrating Aquaculture Education into the Classroom*

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution \$101,268

*Commercial Farm Production of the Florida Bay Scallop (Argopecten irradians, Lamarck 1819), an Alternative Molluscan Aquaculture Species*

Bay Shellfish Company \$70,000

*Non-Native Aquatic Species and Aquaculture Research and Education*

University of Florida – IFAS \$56,277

*Florida Aquaculture-In the Classroom, In the Community, and In the Future*

Florida Aquaculture Association \$39,795

*Education beneath the Surface: Water Quality and Animal Behavior Relationships* Wildwood Middle School

\$46,976

*Mass Scale Production of Copepods for Marine Aquaculture*

University of Florida \$164,513

*Design and Evaluation of Marine Fish and Live Feeds Recirculating Systems for Inland Aquaculture – Year 2*

Mote Marine Laboratory \$473,000

In addition to the ARC projects, the Division of Aquaculture's budget included funding for the Ruskin facility, the Indian River Education Center, and for hurricane clean-up.

Although it was noted that this level of funding showed strong support for the Aquaculture industry, the council members were encouraged to pursue projects that would push the industry along by actively engaging the academic and research communities in areas important to each segment. Applied projects such as new biology, reproductive physiology, fertilization, health, medical, or species biology, mixed with educational projects that would enhance the industries momentum.

In response to queries regarding methods for identifying and addressing industry concerns, it was noted that direct contact by the council members with their constituents followed by contact with appropriate research agencies would be the most effective. This is a crucial spot where the ARC needs to reach out by contacting the researchers and agencies for projects with a fairly rapid return.

Also, it was suggested that council members may want to re-evaluate the current RFP guidelines at the next ARC meeting. This may require looking at the Aquaculture plan itself, to determine if the current issues and concerns are effectively addressed. As, the RFP is based on the Aquaculture plan, it is important to determine if it is broad enough or requires changes, additions, or revisions to meet the current aquaculture needs.

Updates on other bills associated with Aquaculture included the aquaculture sales tax exemption which was not repealed. The Legislature, however, did decide to increase the aquaculture certification fee from \$50 to \$100. Also, there was a change made to the permitting procedure for the collection, transportation, and sale of aquatic plants. Previously under DEP, permits and inspections are now to be processed through the Plant Industry Division, while county maintenance and eradication of aquatic plants will be coordinated by the FWC.

Finally, the bill for purchasing working waterfront property passed. The reauthorization of the Florida Forever included an additional program to purchase working waterfronts to keep them in the public hands for access to the water. Part of this bill also allowed the Dept. of Agriculture to purchase rural farm lands allowing the state to buy development rights from the farmer.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### *A. 2009-2010 Proposals*

Presentations were made to the ARC Committee on the following four proposals submitted by the established deadline.

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Full Proposal Title</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
01	Non-Native Aquatic Species and Aquaculture Research and Education	Dr. Jeffery E. Hill <i>University of Florida – IFAS</i>
02	Commercial-Scale Production of Fingerling Marine Fish in a 100% Recirculating System	Dr. Kevan Main <i>Mote Marine Laboratory</i>
03	Florida Aquaculture Video for Secondary School, Community College and Public Awareness Programs	Amber Shawl, <i>Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution</i>

04	Commercial Hatchery Production and Farm Grow-out of Triploid Eastern Oysters ( <i>Crassoceros virginica</i> , Gmelin, 1819), an Alternative Molluscan Aquaculture Species	Curt Hemmel <i>Bay Shellfish Company</i>
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Following the presentations, there was a discussion about the pay-back issue of the ARC grants and whether it discouraged private industry from applying. It was explained that all the grant recipients, whether private or public research facility, all receive the same contract. This contract states that if any of the products are sold a percent of the money received must be paid back to the state. In other words if public money is used to create the marketed product then the taxpayers need to be reimbursed.

It was reiterated that following the ARC scoring guidelines, projects would be ranked according to their score average and those receiving less than 65 would not be recommended. Members were encouraged to select only those projects they felt strongly about. It was suggested that the project recommendation letter to the governor reflect the council's recognition of the states fiscal situation and that fewer projects would be submitted for consideration in the 2009-2010 fiscal budget.

**V. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was recommended to occur in the fall, possibly October, with the date to be determined.

**VI. Adjourn**

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Submitted by Kim Norgren